

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /066 W
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R 121723Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6002
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
DIA WASH DC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJ: EXTREMISTS CLASH ON NATIONAL DAY

SUMMARY: FAR RIGHTISTS STAGED THEIR OWN NATIONAL DAY
CEREMONY JUNE 10 AND CLASHES WITH FAR LEFTIST COUNTER-
DEMONSTRATORS RESULTED IN ONE DEATH AND FIVE INJURIES.
THE VIOLENT OUTCOME WILL PROVIDE FUEL FOR FURTHER DEMON-
STRATIONS. NONETHELESS, VIOLENT CLASHES REMAIN
ISOLATED INCIDENTS.
END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL DAY CLASHES: OFFICIAL NATIONAL DAY CERE-
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MONIES WERE HELD PEACEFULLY JUNE 10 IN THE ALENTEJO
CITY OF PORTALEGRE. HOWEVER, "NATIONALIST"
DEMONSTRATIONS BY SEVERAL HUNDRED FAR RIGHTISTS IN LISBON
AND OPORTO RESULTED IN ONE
DEATH AND AT LEAST FIVE WOUNDED. WHEN THE FAR-LEFT
DEMOCRATIC POPULAR UNION (UDP) ATTACKED RIGHTIST DEMON-
STRATORS IN LISBON, THE REGULAR POLICE, SURPRISED AND UNDER-

MANNED, SOUGHT TO SEPARATE THE TWO GROUPS BUT ONE UDP MEMBER WAS KILLED AND ANOTHER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE ENSUING SHOOTOUT. OPORTO POLICE PREVENTED CLASHES BETWEEN SEVERAL HUNDRED RIGHTIST DEMONSTRATORS, MOSTLY STUDENTS, AND LEFTIST COUNTER-DEMONSTRATORS, BUT THE RIGHTISTS BROKE WINDOWS AT LOCAL SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICES.

2. REACTION: THE UDP BLAMED THE POLICE FOR THEIR CASUALTIES AND CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATION OF INTERIOR MINISTER GAMA. THE UDP CALLED FOR A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION AT THE FUNERAL OF THEIR FELLER ACTIVIST. COMMUNIST DAILY "O DIARIO" CONDEMNED THE RIGHTIST DEMONSTRATION AND ALSO THE FAR LEFTISTS FOR "PROVIDING THE CONFRONTATION DESIRED BY THE RIGHT."

3. COMMENT: THE FAR RIGHT IS INCREASINGLY BOLD IN CONVOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AND USING THE FASCIST SALUTE, BUT HAS TO BE DISAPPOINTED WITH ITS TURNOUT, PARTICULARLY IN OPORTO WHERE FEW SHOWED DESPITE AND EXPENSIVE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN. THE UNPLEASANT OUTCOME PROVIDES FUEL FOR FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS. VIOLENT CLASHES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF JUNE 10, HOWEVER, REMAIN ISOLATED INCIDENTS AMONG SMALL EXTREMIST GROUPS.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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